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ately, all four species are considered game by the inhabitants, and only lack of firearms, and poor marksmanship, allow the birds to hold their own.

The most valued cage bird in southern Mexico is *Melanotis caerulescens*, a songster that cannot be excelled; also with great ability as a mimic. It must thrive well in captivity, from the numbers possessed by the people. Personally I never found it in numbers sufficient to call common, only running across them now and then in the heaviest of stream-side growth; the clue to its presence was usually the song.

The Solitaire of this region is *Catharus melpomene clarus*. It is another wonderful singer. I have heard it in a high and narrow barranca, where the tones were confined and producing effects that I wish all readers of this could share with me. It is a shy thrush and keeps to cover much, but can be easily recognized by the bright orange bill and golden brown upperparts.

The Western Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*) is a native. But they can poll nothing like the numbers that they occur in over the United States border. It frequently loses its liberty in order to adorn some rude wooden cage.

Bird catching is an industry not to be scoffed at in Mexico. Many species are trapped. Even the Cedar Waxwing (*Ampelis cedrorum*) must pay tribute during the short time it spends here. Occurring in flocks of a hundred or more, they are easy victims for trappers. Their monetary value is small, owing to inability to live in confinement for more than a few days. I was offered a pair for thirty-five cents, Mexican currency. Already the length of this article precludes reference to the Raptors and water-birds I met with. In closing, however, I do intend to make mention of a real game bird, *Colinus graysoni nigripectus*—a true Bobwhite. Unlike our native kinds they seldom seek brush cover, preferring the open fields, where nothing could be more inconspicuous, the plumage blending perfectly with the brown earth. A hard bird to flush, they will fly but a short distance, then alight, to repeat the tactics again if necessary.

The Bobwhites of the *C. graysoni* group are black-chested birds; in this variety the throat is white with black chin. The natives are not very well acquainted with it; and I found none in captivity. It probably never could be as popular a game bird as our eastern Bobwhite, owing to the difficulty in securing it, together with its moderate numbers.

Acknowledgments are due Mr. E. W. Nelson and Dr. C. W. Richmond, of the United States National Museum, for identifying many of the species named in this article.

Brownsville, Texas.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Chestnut-sided Warbler at Sherwood, Mendocino County, California.**—While collecting at the above place in the fall of 1908, I secured on September 21st a Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), juvenal male. It was taken in a pine tree in the edge of the redwood forest and was apparently alone, as no other was noticed. The skin is now in the collection of Dr. L. B. Bishop, New Haven, Connecticut, who identified it, and believes it to be the first record for the State.—HENRY W. MARSDEN, *Witch Creek, California*.

**An Ancient Murrelet at San Pedro, California.**—On January 23, 1908, I went to San Pedro and spent about an hour on the beach looking for dead birds which had been cast up by the recent storm. I walked about a mile toward Long Beach and in this distance I found several Rhinoceros Auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*), several Cassin Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*), one Sanderling (*Calidris leucophaea*), one Xantus Murrelet (*Brachyramphus hypoleucus*) and

two Ancient Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*). I think this last is a record for San Pedro, as Mr. Grinnell informs me that this is the second record south of Santa Cruz Island, the other being a pick-up near San Diego.

These birds were badly stained with crude oil. I had great difficulty in removing it from an Auklet and an Ancient Murrelet which I saved. I used gasoline for cleaning, without injury to the feathers. The Sanderling was without wings, so was probably killed by some hunter. The other birds were apparently killed by the storm.

On February 8 I went down again and found two Brandt Cormorants, three Surf Scoters, one Ancient Murrelet, one Xantus Murrelet, one Cassin Auklet and one Rhinoceros Auklet. All



NEST AND EGGS IN SITU OF TOLMIE WARBLER IN MARIN COUNTY  
Photographed by Joseph Mailliard

but the two Cormorants and one Scoter were in an advanced stage of decomposition and may have been a part of those observed on January 23. The Cormorants were the only ones free from oil.—HOWARD WRIGHT, *Pasadena, California*.

**Nest of the Tolmie Warbler.**—Mention is often made—as, for instance, twice in THE CONDOR, Vol. X, No. 4, by Gilman writing of New Mexico, and Rockwell of Colorado—of localities where the Tolmie Warbler is abundant, or at least common, in the breeding season; but it has never been my fortune to visit such a spot. Most of my observations on this species have been made at San Geronimo, Marin Co., California, where a few, a very few, pairs breed each year. The shyness of these birds and their habit of building near the ground in thick vines, in bunches of wormwood or thick clusters of tall ferns, make the discovery of a nest with eggs a

difficult matter, especially as they will abandon an uncompleted nest under very slight provocation. Those containing young are, of course, comparatively easy to locate by watching the parents carrying food. Most of my "finds" of this species have been entirely accidental.

The nest shown in the accompanying photograph was rather remarkably situated, and found as usual by accident. Altho these birds are naturally extremely retiring in their disposition, this nest was inside the right of way of the railroad running thru the Rancho San Geronimo and only about twenty-five feet from the track over which four or five passenger and freight trains passed each way every day. We use a wire of the railroad fence for telephonic purposes, and in the spring, when the growth of vines is especially rampant, we have more or less trouble from the grounding of the current by the vines coming in contact with the wire.

In the present instance, while driving along the county road parallel to the track, some three miles from headquarters, I noticed that some wild cucumber vines had clutched our wire in their disturbing embrace, and I jumped out of my buggy to remove them. This nest was on the farther side of the right of way, and it was in crossing from the track to the fence beyond that I flushed the parent by almost stepping on it. Quite a stream runs parallel with the railroad here, and some willows growing on its bank overhang the fence. The nest was placed near the ground in a low patch of wild blackberry vines under the edge of these willows. The instant the parent flushed I drew back and hid, waiting for her to return to the nest. She flew into the willows where she was soon joined by her mate, and their note—so much like the warning "twit" of the California Partridge—was repeated anxiously many times as they hopped about the neighboring trees before they were sufficiently reassured to return to the nest. Finally, however, the female edged toward her particular blackberry bush and all became quiet.

Except for the danger of having one's paraphernalia disturbed by the passing public this would have been an ideal place for a series of photographs as soon as the young were hatched, especially as the birds must have become used to more or less disturbance in such a noisy spot; but unfortunately my time was too much occupied to make the trial. The day after this discovery I brought my camera along with the result herewith submitted. It was necessary to cut away some of the vines on the camera side before the nest could be focussed, as it was practically hidden from sight.

It is more than possible that the noise of the passing trains had made this pair of birds bolder than the majority of their kind, as otherwise it is extremely improbable that they would have returned to their nest at all after the rude disturbance of a full grown man crashing thru their blackberry patch. The necessity of further disturbance from cutting away and disarranging the vines about the nest was too much for them, however, and the set was added to our collection. It was taken May 7, 1908; No. 4000-5-08, collection J. & J. W. Mailliard; incubation one-third. Nest composed of dry weeds and weed bark, lined with a few fine rootlets and a little horsehair; diameters 4 and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches, depths  $2\frac{3}{4}$  and 2.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Geronimo, California*.

**The Status of the Hutton Vireo in Southern California.**—I have come to the conclusion that *Vireo huttoni oberholseri* does not exist as a race separate from *Vireo huttoni huttoni*. And this, too, after my attempted demonstration to the affirmative conclusion (as presented in THE CONDOR VIII, November, 1906, pp. 148, 149)!

My reversal of opinion is due to the acquisition of more material from southern California, the most valuable of which in this connection are birds in fresh fall plumage from Orange County, and a number of additional specimens from San Diego County. My former statement that the only then available San Diego County example (taken in March) was exceptionally "leadened" was perfectly true. Furthermore I have at hand thru the courtesy of Mr. F. Stephens, three May examples from Witch Creek, the type locality of *oberholseri*; and three more June birds (adult) from the Santa Rosa Mountains. These are all quite appreciably paler than June and July adults from the vicinity of Monterey; the type locality of *Vireo huttoni huttoni*. But (and here is the crucial test) the September birds from Orange County (just as with those from Los Angeles County, as I previously pointed out), and which are in full, fresh plumage, are of exactly the same tints thruout as equally unworn birds from Monterey, Palo Alto and the Santa Cruz Mountains. (It must, of course, be borne in mind here that there is but the single annual molt in this species, in August.) Furthermore (and this clinches the evidence) an adult specimen (No. 2401, U. C. M. V. Z.) from the Santa Rosa Mountains is even paler than any of the Witch Creek birds; yet among the prevailing worn, light-colored feathers of the back are to be seen, just appearing, two or three bright green new feathers of the precise tint of the corresponding feathers in the new-plumaged Monterey birds.

The deduction from this is that the character of *oberholseri*, paleness, is adventitious and due to the greater rate of fading and abrasion to which the southern California birds are subjected.

The atmospheric dryness makes the feathers more brittle and hence hastens the disintegration process resulting from attrition. The more intense and long-continued sunlight bleaches the colors at a greater rate.

The moral again, repeated here for the sake of emphasis, is that the true color characters of birds must be sought in freshly acquired plumages, and not in the "breeding dress" (often in a dilapidated condition) as has been so universally insisted upon.

The above contention that *oberholseri* is not after all a phylogenetic race, is not at all an argument against the recognition of minute differences in nomenclature, as would apparently be urged by Linton (cf. CONDOR X, July 1908, p. 181; and Kaeding, *idem*, XI, January 1909, p. 32), but rather points toward the need for greater care in discriminating subspecies.—J. GRINNELL, *University of California, Berkeley, California.*

**The Early Western Surveys.**—In Mr. Rockwell's interesting paper on "The History of Colorado Ornithology," in the January-February number of THE CONDOR there are several erroneous citations, which, coupled with a number of similar errors recently appearing in scientific publications, lead to the belief that a general account of several of the western surveys and their publications may be timely. For those who are familiar with the publications referred to, citations are not necessary, and if the references are not correct they are worse than useless to those for whom they are intended.

In the paper just referred to, Coues' "Birds of the Northwest" is attributed to the Bulletins of the United States Geological Survey, instead of to the Miscellaneous publications of the "Hayden Survey" of the Territories; and Henshaw's reports are attributed to the same survey, instead of to the "Wheeler Survey" of the region west of the one hundredth meridian. Ridgway's report on the Maxwell collection was first published, so far as I am able to learn, in 1879, in Mary Dartt's (now Mrs. Thompson) "On the Plains and Among the Peaks," instead of in 1877 as Mr. Rockwell has it. Afterward, according to Professor Cooke, it appeared in 1887 in "Field and Forest," a publication not now accessible to me. Either Mr. Rockwell's date is an error or both Professor Cooke and I have overlooked the earlier publication. However, that is of minor importance. The important item is the confusion of entirely distinct surveys.

The United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories, under Dr. F. V. Hayden, began operations in 1867 and ceased field work in 1878, tho some of its publications did not appear until several years later. Its principal publications are contained in four distinct series, numbered separately, i. e., Bulletins, Annual Reports, Monographs or Final Reports, and Miscellaneous Publications, in addition to some unclassified papers. Each series contains papers on both fossil and recent plants and animals, and should be carefully distinguished to avoid misleading the reader who is not thoroly familiar with them. For instance, Coues' "Birds of the Northwest" cannot be found in the Bulletin of the Hayden Survey, but is No. 3 of Miscellaneous Publications, and is not in the United States Geological Survey publications at all, altho on the title page the words "and Geographical" are omitted, the words "of the Territories," which at once distinguish it from the present survey, being retained.

The United States Geographical [Explorations and] Surveys West of the One Hundredth Meridian (title varying somewhat on different publications), under Lieut. Geo. M. Wheeler, was in the field from 1869 to 1884, its chief publications being Annual Reports, Maps, and seven large quarto Final Reports or Monographs, of which Vol. V is of most importance in the matter of recent zoology and contains Henshaw's reports hereinbefore referred to.

The United States Geological Exploration of the Fortieth Parallel, under Clarence King, was in the field from 1871 to 1878 inclusive, its chief publications being an Atlas, Annual Reports, and several large quarto Final Reports or Monographs, about half of Vol. IV being devoted to ornithology.

The United States Geographical and Geological Survey of the Rocky Mountain Region, under J. W. Powell, published quite a number of special volumes from 1877 to 1880, not numbered in a serial way, such as the "Geology of the Henry Mountains," all of them being confined to geography in its limited sense, geology, paleontology and ethnology. The publications, together with a number of reports by Powell before the organization of the Rocky Mountain Region Survey, are briefly referred to as the Powell Survey Reports.

The foregoing were all western surveys, Hayden and Powell reporting to the Secretary of the Interior, Wheeler and King reporting to the Secretary of War, in accordance with the statutes under which they operated, and were entirely distinct surveys, tho their work to some extent overlapt. In 1879 the present United States Geological Survey, under the Interior Department, began operations; some of the other organizations at once, and all eventually ceasing field work. At the present time nearly all of the strictly geological and paleontological work of

the general government is carried on by the United States Geological Survey, its publications consisting of quite a number of distinct series, numbered separately, such as Annual Reports, Bulletins, Monographs, Professional Papers, Atlas Folios, etc. Since the organization of this survey, the work of the general government in recent botany and zoology has been carried on by the various bureaus of the Department of Agriculture, the National Museum and Smithsonian Institution, the incidental references to recent species become somewhat prominent in such Geological Survey papers as Dr. Arnold's "The Tertiary and Quaternary Pectens of California."

A complete set of the publications of these various surveys constitutes a good sized library, and unless reference to them really points one to the volume intended it would perhaps better be omitted altogether and thus avoid confusing future naturalists and bibliographers and sending them on "wild goose chases" similar to those from which some have recently returned. Anyone who expects to find Coues' "Birds of the Northwest," or Lesquereux' monographs, or Coues and Allen's "North American Rodentia," or Whitfield's report on Black Hills paleontology, in the publications of the United States Geological Survey, is doomed to disappointment. Let's all be careful with citations or omit them.

Bulletin No. 222 of the United States Geological Survey is a very useful table of contents and generalized index of the King, Hayden, Powell and Wheeler publications.

I have said nothing of the Pacific Railway Survey and earlier explorations, because there seems to be no confusion concerning them.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *Boulder, Colorado*.

**Winter Observations in Oregon.**—The recent winter has been, for Oregon, one of great severity. The Willamette valley birds were given a sample of real winter; it came in the shape of a snow storm. An excellent opportunity was presented to the city man for bird study, for birds came to the towns in great numbers in search of food. Our usual winter friends of the wood were much in evidence and we were surprised to see, also, many of the birds which do not usually arrive until the spring. I had the pleasure of seeing birds whose habitats are far removed from each other eating crumbs together in perfect harmony. The Flicker came from the depths of his woody retreat to partake of a meal in company with a Meadowlark from the fields.

Chattering Juncos in sudden flurries swept continually by, and the dusky little Song Sparrows, aroused to greater activity than ever, seemed everywhere. Towhees and Robins were seen every now and then and a Jay or two flew over. From the nearby wood came Chickadees, Kinglets and great numbers of Alaska Robins.

The last named bird—known also as Varied Thrush, Flicker and Mountain Robin—is a most voracious fellow. Of course I opened lunch counters for the birds with the coming of the storm, and the Alaska Robins came near breaking me up in business! They prefer apples but there are few bird stuffs which they reject. The Flicker is a queer looker: that is, one cannot tell where he is looking because of a patch of black which surrounds the eyes making those organs invisible to us. The bird resembles the Robin in having a red breast. The male has, like the Woodpecker, a black crescent upon the breast, the neck is brownish yellow and the wings mottled, yellow and black.

It seemed surprising to see our usual summer birdlife here in the depth of winter. Larks drifted in by two's and three's and Horned Larks in bands. But the merry Lark was merry no longer nor did he soar as poets would fain have him to do: he was but a very cold and hungry bird. The Horned Larks trotted, quail-like, about the streets giving their short, unmusical call. The cold made these naturally shy birds almost fearless. Many persons did not recognize this bird as our summer friend. It scarcely looked familiar, we must admit, for the feathers were ruffed up and wings partly extended because of the cold. In summer the bird presents a most spick and span appearance.

Some of the Larks sat apart with heads wellnigh hidden in their bodies, looking most dejected. Not a few birds perished. Great numbers of quail have died. Alighting in the soft snow the birds could find no footing whence to spring out and so floundered about until frozen. Before the snow went off, however, sleet fell, and this, crusting the snow, undoubtedly saved many bird lives.—EARL STANNARD, *Brownsville, Oregon*.

**Sterna caspia in Los Angeles County.**—December 27, 1908, while rowing in Alamitos Bay, California, I counted eight individuals of *Sterna caspia* (Caspian Tern) resting on the exposed mud flats in company with Royal Terns, Western Gulls and numerous sandpipers. Altho *Sterna caspia* could hardly be compared with *Sterna maxima* by anyone at all familiar with either bird, to avoid possible mistakes I crossed the bay and flushed the entire flock, but did not attempt to secure specimens owing to the proximity of residences—C. B. LINTON, *Long Beach, California*.

**A Correction.**—I note that Mr. Robert Rockwell has, in his "Annotated List of the Birds of Mesa County, Colorado" (CONDOR, July, 1908, pp. 152-180), used, without permission, a record

of mine (p. 170) pertaining to *Pinicola enucleator montana* (Rocky Mountain Pine Grosbeak). Furthermore, Mr. Rockwell makes it appear by the omission of any name in connection with the record that the record was made by himself. On July 3, 1898, the date on which he records the specimen on South Mamm Peak, Mr. Rockwell was not in that locality; for upon that date I was with him on what was at that time known as the Ballantine and Rockwell Ranch, a distance of about twenty-two miles from South Mamm Peak. The Grosbeak under discussion was shot by me on South Mamm Peak on July 8, 1898, instead of July 3 as reported by Mr. Rockwell, and was subsequently shown to him. It is still one of the specimens in my collection.—A. H. FELGER, *Denver, Colorado; February 8, 1909.*

**Dendroica townsendi in Pasadena.**—Townsend Warblers were common at my home in Pasadena during January, 1909. Ordinarily one or two is all I have seen during the winter, and sometimes none at all. This year, for some cause, they are abundant.

No Varied Thrushes have been seen or heard in the vicinity of Pasadena this winter. It would be interesting as in previous seasons to ascertain thru the columns of THE CONDOR the distribution of this bird.

Robins, bluebirds, and other winter visitants seem to be present in about their usual numbers.—WALTER P. TAYLOR, *Pasadena, California.*

**The Zone-tailed Hawk in California.**—*Buteo abbreviatus* was first known as a member of the United States fauna from a specimen taken by Cooper near San Diego, California, in 1862. Since then the species has been ascertained to occur not uncommonly in the southern portions of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, as well as, of course, south thru Mexico to British Guiana, whence it was originally described in 1848 by Cabanis.

Cooper's specimen (perhaps first recorded in Proc. Cal. Ac. Sc. IV, 1868, p. 7) is now number 4375 in the collection of the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Altho the stuffing has been removed, giving it a collapsed appearance, it is still quite a good skin. The original, attached label, tho doubtless considerably faded, is perfectly legible. It is of the characteristic blue, lined, ledger paper; the legend, in ink, is in Cooper's own hand-writing, and reads as follows: "761 *Buteo harlani* [the latter name crossed out in pencil and 'zonocercus Sclater' written above and beyond, also in lead pencil] ♂ | 20 mi N of San Diego Cal | Feb 23d '62 J. G. C || 20.25 56.50 16.25 I[r]is red brown, Bill | black and whitish horn, cere and feet yellow."

The next record of the Zone-tailed Hawk in California was of an immature ♂ secured by C. B. Linton at National City, near San Diego, November 26, 1906. This example was originally recorded by Linton under the name "*Urubitinga anthracina*" (CONDOR IX, July 1907, p. 110), but this erroneous determination was corrected by him as soon as he became aware of his mistake (CONDOR X, July 1908, p. 181). The specimen is now, I believe, in Mr. Linton's private collection. I had the opportunity of verifying its identity, comparing it with Arizona examples of the species in the collection of G. Frean Morcom, with which it agreed perfectly.

This museum has recently acquired two more examples of this bird, one of them, number 5494, collected by W. J. McCloskey "near the coast, 30 miles north of San Diego," California, September 10, 1907; the other secured by F. Stephens from a local hunter who shot it in "April, 1908," five miles southeast of Tijuana, Lower California, which is less than twenty miles south of San Diego. The former thus constitutes the third record for the state of California.

Of the four examples above noted from the vicinity of San Diego, only the Cooper specimen is fully adult, that is, solid blackish with two-barred tail. The others have much white mottling particularly on breast and back of head, and their tails are many-barred. Mr. Stephens has kindly forwarded me two specimens taken by him in Arizona. Comparison with these as well as with those in the Morcom collection, show California examples of *Buteo abbreviatus* to be in no way different.—J. GRINNELL, *University of California, Berkeley, California.*

**That Cooperative Scheme.**—With the exception of a very practical article by William E. Ritter which appeared in the November, 1908, CONDOR and one or two personal letters from scientists interested in the subject, the silence following my suggestions on "a plan for cooperative ornithology" would be fairly appalling, were it not for the fact that it was more or less expected.

CONDOR readers may probably be divided into three classes in this connection, viz: (1) those who are in sympathy with the idea and believe in its practicability; (2) those who would be in sympathy with the idea if they were sure of its ultimate success; and (3) those who for various reasons do not admit its feasibility.

Obviously the latter class must be eliminated from our plans and it remains for the others to

carry thru the idea to a successful conclusion, if it is to be undertaken. It now remains to be proven just *who* among the CONDOR readers really *are* interested in the project to the extent of being willing to do some work; and the only way in which this may be found out is for those students to make themselves known and to publish their ideas on the subject for the benefit of other interested parties. There are undoubtedly many CONDOR readers who do not wish their ideas to appear in print, but who are nevertheless in sympathy with the general idea. If that is your position, dear reader, drop a few lines to the editors, just to inform us that you are interested.

An undertaking of this kind is unique in many ways. It will require the personal opinions of a great many before the plan assumes any definite shape, and it rests entirely with the readers to bring about results. This cannot be a one-man, or a ten-man undertaking, for unless the plan meets with general support it would be impossible of accomplishment.

Naturally we look to the members of the Cooper Club for the greater number of expressions on the subject, and the past record of the Club for "doing things" warrants the assumption that they will respond; but it is to be hoped that responses will not be limited to Cooper Club members.

*Now*, bird lovers, is the time to drop us a line outlining your views upon the subject and if the correspondence overwhelms our worthy editor we will try to arrange for a private secretary. —R. B. ROCKWELL, *Denver, Colorado*.

**Random Bird Notes from Chaffee County, Colorado.**—On July 15th I left Salida, Colorado (altitude 7050), for a short trip to timberline, my destination being Bass Lake, a typical alpine lake at an altitude of about 11,000 feet.

In the vicinity of Salida, Western Robins, Red-winged and Brewer Blackbirds, House Finches, English Sparrows, Western Vesper, and Western Savanna Sparrows and Black-headed Grosbeaks were very common. One pair of Kildeer were also seen, that were evidently nesting.

About seven miles from Salida I saw several young Mountain Bluebirds just able to fly, and a little further on (at about 8,000) several Magpies were seen. Camp was pitched at Poncha and the next morning, soon after leaving there, I saw several Desert Horned Larks and a Brewer Sparrow on a sage brush covered mesa. From here on, the country is very rough, the hills rising abruptly and no timber occurring except the cottonwood trees in the creek bottoms, until the top of the mesa is reached which is covered with a heavy growth of pine and spruce.

About five miles above Poncha I saw several Broad-tailed Hummingbirds in a small patch of thistles and a little farther on a Green-tailed Towhee. After a long steady climb we reached Garfield, Chaffee County, twenty miles from Salida and at an altitude of about 10,000 feet, and here I saw Gray-headed Juncos and English Sparrows feeding in the streets of the town.

We arrived at Bass Lake about five P. M. and found a very pretty lake, just at timber line, surrounded by very high mountains. From this spot half a dozen peaks in sight were over 14,000 feet high.

On the 17th I flushed a Gray-headed Junco from a cunningly concealed nest under the edge of a juniper bush. It contained four young about a week old. I saw a number of these birds around the lake but found no other nests. Near here in the down timber and rocks I found one small White-tailed Ptarmigan chick, and one Rosy Finch feeding on the shores of the lake. Three Clarke Crows were seen near the lake and on the return trip the only new bird seen was a fine Western Tanager. —JOHN W. FREY.

**Unusual Wave of Western Tanagers.**—Beginning April 16, 1908, there was witnessed in this county a flight of tanagers (*Piranga ludoviciana*) which seemed most remarkable for this section.

The birds were noted most commonly about a mile north of Auburn, passing by the hundreds in a westwardly direction. The sexes appeared to be evenly divided, tho as they flew from tree to tree it was the bright colored males that attracted the attention of the passer-by. At my ranch, seven miles north of Auburn, the birds were not as numerous, but for two or three weeks they kept moving leisurely westward. As cherries ripened they lingered in nearby pine trees, flying back and forth to the cherries between shots from the auxilliary. Shooting appeared not to decrease the numbers, and it was July 7 before the last bird left. Just how far west they went, and why they took this course, direct from their breeding grounds, would be interesting to know. —ERNEST ADAMS, *Clipper Gap, Placer County, California*.